

5 TIPS FOR OPERATING WITH ABUNDANCE

At the Oregon Food Bank and FOOD For Lane County, we believe in the abundance of resources. We recognize that all households have unique and varying food needs. We envision food pantries where community members have access to an abundance of nutritious, culturally appropriate foods to live healthy and productive lives.

These tips encourage partner agencies to create a dignified and equitable distribution centered around elevating community members needs.

1. Give More

- Operate under the assumption that people take what they need.
- If you are turning down allocations, remove limits and increase distribution.
- Clients may access services less frequently if they are able to choose higher quantities of food.

2. Give Clients a Choice

- Empower clients through choice.
- Create a dignified shopping experience.
- Take the stigma out of accessing food pantries.
- Create more opportunity to influence and educate about food.
- Establish a better understanding of client preference.
- Reduce food waste.
- Ensure community members leave with the amount of food to meet their needs.

3. Identify High Flow Products

- Some products are consistently accessible while other foods eb and flow.
- Identify foods you consistently receive in high quantities.
- Identify foods that are in high demand.

4. Determine the Quantity

- Partner Agencies have the choice to determine the amount of food they distribute to individuals.
- There are NO contractual limits around amount of food clients receive.
- There are NO contractual limits around amount of times a client may receive food in a given month or year.
- Distribute food in quantities that match your operational hours and availability.
- If your agency is open once a month, consider removing limits and increasing your food supply to individuals.

5. Move Food Faster

- Maintain a consistent food flow.
- Increase distribution to clear shelf space for fresh resources.
- Increase or eliminate limits on easily accessible foods.